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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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KILILI IN HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS

Serving as delegate 'honor of my lifetime'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), who has represented the CNMI in U.S. Congress for 16 years, made his final address to his constituents during a townhall meeting yesterday at the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

Yesterday, members of the community and CNMI dignitaries joined Sablan for his final townhall before the end of his 16-year-long run as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate in U.S. Congress.

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MARK RABAGO
Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) shakes hands with Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang during his final townhall yesterday morning.

Archbishop Ryan: True call of Church goes beyond ethnicity

RACQUEL FLOYD
Archbishop of Agana Ryan Jimenez during the Thanksgiving Mass last Tuesday night at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's Mt. Carmel Church.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Archbishop of Agaña Ryan Jimenez defended the appointment of Fr. Romeo Convocar as bishop-elect of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, emphasizing that the appointment process is not based on ethnicity but on the

See RYAN on Page 4

RACQUEL FLOYD
Teacher of the Year awardee Yeji Lee, sixth from the left, poses with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, and fellow faculty at William S. Reyes Elementary School yesterday in Chalan Kanoa.

PSS hails 'champions' for SY 2024-2025

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of National Education Day, the CNMI Public School System named yesterday the State Staff of the Year for the school year 2024-2025 namely Yeji Lee of William

See PSS on Page PB

Southern Airways' bid to dismiss Star Marianas Air's complaint granted

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted Southern Airway Express LLC's request for dismissal in the lawsuit filed by Star Marianas Air Inc. over an $8-million

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Eighty years ago, Manny Rosa, a member of the Construction Battalion (Seabees) who were stationed here after the Battle of Saipan, contributed his artistic and carpentry talents to restoring and repairing some of the religious statues here on island.

PAGE 5

LOCAL
As we gather with loved ones and share in the warmth of the season, it's a perfect opportunity to express gratitude for both the big and small blessings in our lives.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
Rocker Marilyn Manson has agreed to drop a lawsuit against his former fiancée, "Westworld" actor Evan Rachel Wood, and to pay her attorneys' fees, lawyers for both sides said Tuesday.

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Local

Court hears complex testimony in Sanchez evidence suppression motion

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The NMI Superior Court convened for an evidentiary hearing to address a motion to suppress evidence in the case against Kelvin Cabrera Sanchez last Nov. 20 at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe. The hearing presented a dive into the intricacies of law enforcement protocol and constitutional safeguards.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds and assistant attorney general David Karch represented the government and Molly Dennert represented Sanchez on the matter.

The proceedings built on a foundation of a prior ruling, which included a July court order granting suppression in a separate case involving Sanchez, due to constitutional violations. Both parties questioned witnesses, going over testimony, to determine whether a warrantless search of a vehicle and the subsequent discovery of narcotics should be suppressed.

The motion centers on a July 2024 incident at the Saipan Vegas parking lot, a place according to officers as a known hotspot for drug activity, where Sanchez was found in a vehicle linked to another wanted individual. Sanchez was arrested on contempt of court charges, not being with his third-party custodian, according to the Department of Public Safety reports. DPS officers impounded his car and conducted a K-9 sweep that led to the discovery of a backpack containing drugs and identification.

The prosecution presented testimony from multiple DPS officers and experts to establish the vehicle's connection to Sanchez and justify the search. The defense countered by questioning procedural inconsistencies, especially the lack of adherence to written impoundment and inventory search policies.

The prosecution's key witnesses were officers under DPS, Criminal Investigation Bureau, and Drug Enforcement Task Force. The men testified about the vehicle's impoundment and K-9 sweep. However, all admitted being unaware or unfamiliar of a formal policy mandating such actions in a red zone. Officers echoed uncertainties, describing the Saipan Vegas area as fraught with illicit activity but conceding their lack

See COURT on Page 4

Life is Sweeter
WHEN YOU GIVE A LITTLE
thanks
Gratitude is one of the sweetest gifts we can share — it uplifts our spirits, strengthens our connections, and reminds us of the abundance around us. This season, as we count our blessings, we're thankful for you, our valued customers. Let's give a little love and make life a little sweeter for everyone.
Happy Thanksgiving!
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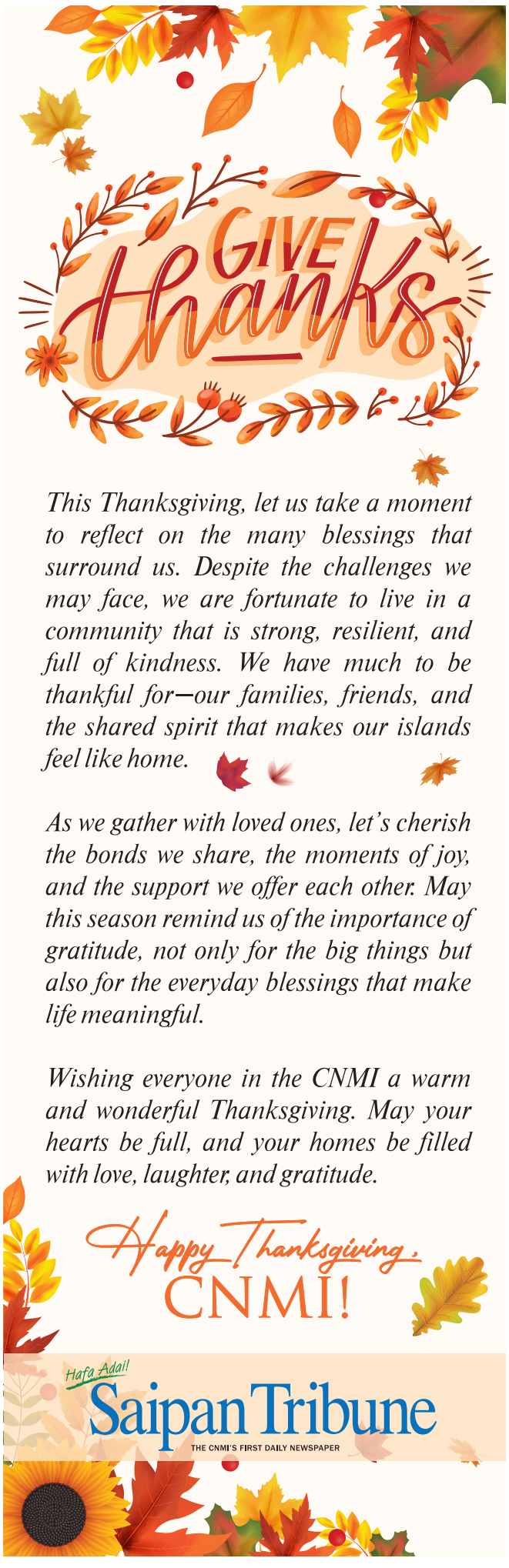
GIVE thanks
This Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to reflect on the many blessings that surround us. Despite the challenges we may face, we are fortunate to live in a community that is strong, resilient, and full of kindness. We have much to be thankful for—our families, friends, and the shared spirit that makes our islands feel like home.
As we gather with loved ones, let's cherish the bonds we share, the moments of joy, and the support we offer each other. May this season remind us of the importance of gratitude, not only for the big things but also for the everyday blessings that make life meaningful.
Wishing everyone in the CNMI a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving. May your hearts be full, and your homes be filled with love, laughter, and gratitude.
Happy Thanksgiving, CNMI!
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

NCD and associated risk factors hybrid survey results presented

Health leaders, advocates and community stakeholders gathered last Nov. 14 for a presentation of the Commonwealth's latest Non-Communicable Disease and Associated Risk Factors Hybrid Survey results, marking a significant milestone in the territory's public health monitoring efforts.

The hybrid survey revealed key trends in non-communicable diseases and associated risk factors across the CNMI's population. These findings are particularly significant as NCDs, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension, continue to be leading health concerns in the Pacific region.

"Our goal is to disseminate these results so that our community leaders, decision and policy makers have the information they need in order to make data-informed decisions around policies, programs, and interventions to improve the health and well-being of our CNMI people," said CHCC Public Health Services director Heather Pangelinan.

"As many in the field of public health know, accessing healthcare is just a small piece of the puzzle. Factors such as health behaviors, like tobacco and alcohol use, environmental risks, and socio-economic factors including income, access to quality education or healthy food, employment, and community safety have a far greater impact on an individual's health outcomes. For this reason, we are looking to engage with partners from across various community sectors to be able to implement policy, systems and environmental changes to prevent health problems, improve health outcomes, and promote equity within the CNMI," Pangelinan added.

The dissemination event brought together healthcare professionals, community leaders, and public health experts who discussed the implications of the findings and potential strategies for addressing identified health challenges. Participants engaged in productive discussions focused on identifying priority areas and potential evidence-based interventions to be implemented to address them.

The survey results will inform public health policies

See NCD on Page 4

HAPPY
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SERVING

From page 1

Aside from a number of resolutions presented in his honor, the NMI Museum also unveiled a special exhibit dedicated to Sablan's monumental work in U.S. Congress.

In his address to the community, Sablan shared some of his accomplishments for the CNMI through his consecutive eight terms.

"I was first elected with 27% of the votes in 2008. In addition to having established the very first Marianas office in the U.S. House of Representatives, I did so knowing that most voters wanted someone else to represent them. Because we never had representation in Congress, we never knew what that position could accomplish. There was one obvious and immediate problem, making the transition to federal control of immigration as least difficult as possible. Voters seemed relatively satisfied with re-electing me. Immigration aside, I set two goals for myself in my time in office; make sure the Commonwealth was included in many programs where we were told 'no' and bring respect to the Marianas through my conduct in office. The Commonwealth is said to be included in more programs now than when I was first elected from $60 million earmarked for projects in the Marianas, to making sure the Marianas was cared for with billions of dollars after typhoons struck and the pandemic killed our economy," he said.

However, Sablan said the work isn't over.

"But I know there is still much to do legislatively to put our Commonwealth on par with the rest of the United States and I truly wish our new delegate-elect success in reaching those goals during her time in office. I also believe that in my time in office, the image of our islands improved. Most members of Congress now know the Marianas exists. We all hope our new delegate will earn the respect of her colleagues in Congress and by doing so she will also bring respect to our islands and our people," he said.

Sablan said he hopes to show his gratitude by continuing to contribute to the welfare of the community even out of Congress.

"I will miss the work, so it is with sadness that I leave this job that has been the honor of my lifetime. But the Bible tells us that every man has their season and now is the time to give way to a new generation of leadership. The sadness is washed away by the gratitude to the people of the Marianas trusted me to work for them for the last 16 years. In the days to come, I hope the people of the Marianas would have the chance to see this exhibit among their first delegate to Congress and they can take inspiration from what can be accomplished with trust, handwork, and dedication," he said.

Delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds who just returned from Washington, D.C. shared her appreciation for Sablan and says she will continue the work he left behind.

"Kilili has done tremendous things for the CNMI and I'm very cognizant of the shoes I have to fill. I hope to continue working on some of the legislations that he's put forward and advocate for some of the things he has been advocating for over the years, I call it unfinished business, but we're also going to be looking for new opportunities for the CNMI in terms of just getting the additional resources that we need and also advance policies that allows the CNMI to be economically self-sustainable," she said.

RYAN

From page 1

will of Pope Francis and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

"In our ministry, in our life as priests, it's not about your ethnicity. We always of course respect the culture where we are in, like here on (Saipan). But when you work for the Lord, it goes beyond, it's not about us. Also, the appointment of bishop in any diocese, it's the Holy Father who appoints but also, we trust that in the process is the work of the Holy Spirit. So, as a church we have to be open," said Jimenez after the Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving last Tuesday at the Mt. Carmel Church in Chalan Kanoa.

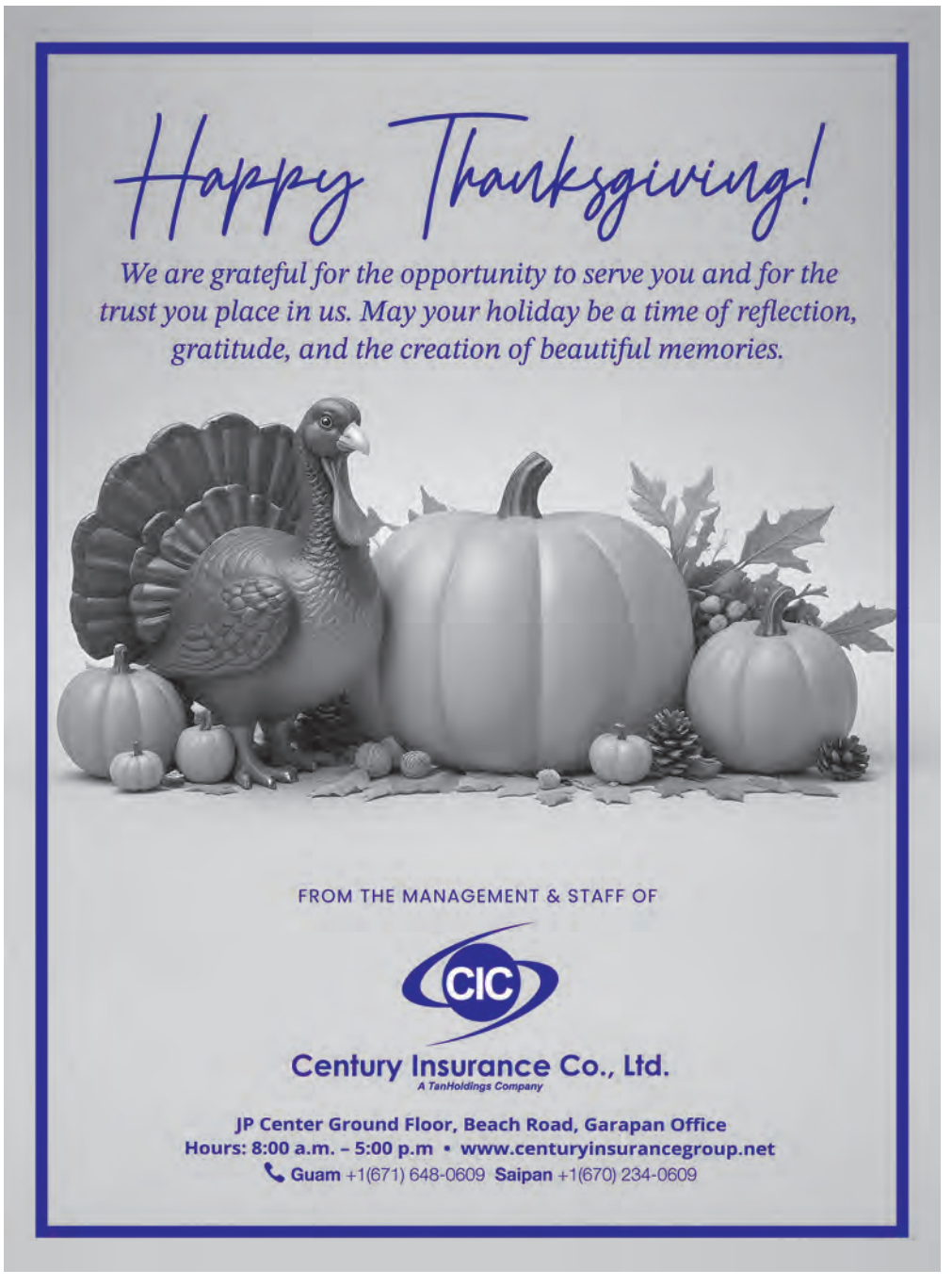
Jimenez, who served as bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa before his appointment as archbishop of the Archdiocese of Agana. reiterated that the ministry is not about personal ambition but about serving God and others, regardless of where one is assigned.

"First of all, no one is worthy. We are all not qualified. But as the saying goes, God qualifies, then qualified. It's a call from God. This is not like applying for public office, where you put your resume and all of that. And when we said yes to the sacrament of ordination as priest, we have to do our ministry, but we don't aspire for a priest so that years later, we will be chosen as bishops. If we are chosen, like in my case, then it's an invitation, a call for greater service."

The archbishop also addressed the universal nature of the church, stating that the focus should be on serving God and others, not on personal or ethnic consideration.

"When you talk about Church, there is that universality of the Church. So wherever one is sent, you are serving God by serving others. I was a seminarian for Chalan Kanoa, and the Holy Father appointed me as the archbishop of Agaña, I said yes because wherever I am sent, it's serving God by serving others. We need to get out of that (sometimes), that parochial way of thinking we're in, it's about us. No, it's not about us, it's about God."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com


Happy Thanksgiving!
We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and for the trust you place in us. May your holiday be a time of reflection, gratitude, and the creation of beautiful memories.
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STAR

From page 1

contract between Marianas Southern Airways and the administration of former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Last week, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona granted Southern Airways Express' motion for dismissal of Star Marianas Air's suit for failure to join a necessary and indispensable party under Rule (19).

However, the court denied the motion for dismissal pursuant to arguments related to the Sherman Act and Parker Immunity.

During the hearing before Manglona, Michael Iasparro, pro hac vice attorney for defendant Southern Airways, argued in support of the motion to dismiss Counts I and II of the complaint pursuant to Parker Immunity and even submitted a source of authority for the Department of Finance along with the procurement regulation regarding expenditure authority.

For his part, Star Marianas Air's attorney Mark Scoggins argued in response to Iasparro's arguments regarding the Sherman Act.

After presenting their arguments before the court, judge Manglona denied Southern Airway Express's motion to dismiss as to Parker Immunity.

After the hearing, Scoggins was ordered to file an amended complaint no later than Dec. 5, 2024.

Last June, Star Marianas filed a lawsuit against Southern Airways Express and Marianas Pacific Express LLC who were previously operating Marianas Southern Airways until the airline stopped operating last year.

In the lawsuit, there are two counts in filed against Southern Airways, one alleging an attempt to monopolize the airline industry market in the Northern Mariana Islands, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, and the other alleging that Southern Airways conspired with its co-defendants to unreasonably restrain trade in that market, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act. 15 U.S.C. §§1-2.

Both claims were based upon a sole source contract entered into between the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and defendant Marianas Pacific Express LLC doing business as Marianas Southern Airways—a joint venture between defendant Southern Airways and defendant Keith Stewart—an interisland air passenger and cargo service in the Northern Mariana Islands.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NCD

From page 3

and programs, with a particular focus on engaging cross sector partners to be able to maximize efforts and community reach. Health officials announced plans to develop a CNMI NCD plan to define goals, objectives and interventions to address key findings from the survey.

The 2023 CNMI Non-Communicable Disease and Associated Risk Factors Hybrid Survey report will be made available to the public in December 2024. ***(PR)***

COURT

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of familiarity with procedural requirements.

The car's last registered owner was also placed on the stand and testified that he sold the vehicle in 2022, but could not recall the buyer. According to a woman who earlier spoke to police, Sanchez had been borrowing the car from the man who was off-island. The man said he neither knew nor could identify Sanchez and that, he personally had never left the island at that time. Prosecutors mentioned that the vehicle's registration expired in May 2023, making it unregistered, at the time of the incident, and according to testimony of several officers it was legal that DPS could impound the vehicle.

A police detective, who first alerted other officers of Sanchez's "contempt of court" charge, testified that impounding the vehicle was done for safekeeping, not because of suspected narcotics. The decision, along with the K-9 sweep, became a focal point of defense arguments.

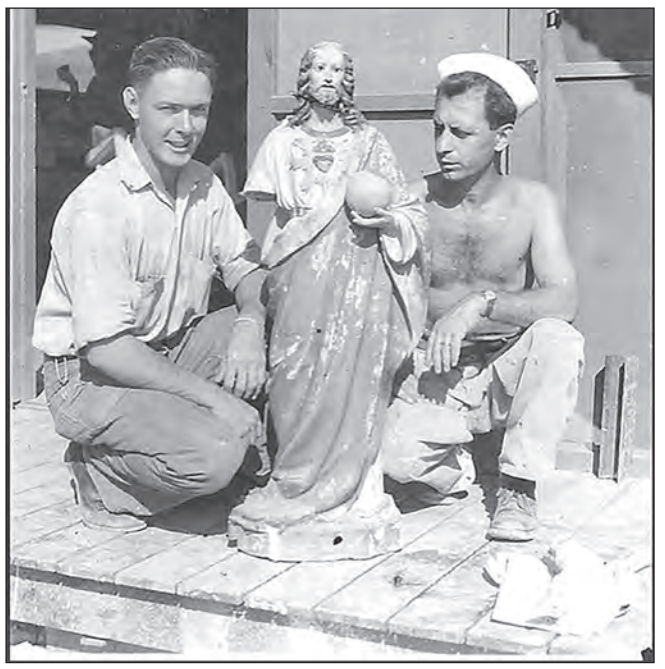
Dennert focused on DPS policies, asserting that no written directive mandated the impoundment or search. Each officer acknowledged the absence of completely clear guidance in the decision, with some admitting to never having fully reviewed departmental manuals.

Dennert also questioned the reasoning behind the K-9 sweep and subsequent inventory searches, arguing they exceeded constitutional limits and lacked justification under Fourth Amendment protections.

Overall, the prosecutions move on the evidentiary hearing was to bring new evidence and witness testimony to counter the court granting the defense's motion to suppress evidence in the *Commonwealth v. Sanchez* case. In that order, issued in July, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho suppressed evidence after finding that DPS officers violated Sanchez's Fourth Amendment rights. That case involved a pat-down and vehicle search initiated without reasonable suspicion, culminating in the court ruling that the searches were unconstitutional.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Wanted: Statues restored by Manny Rosa



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The man on the left is Herb, who helped Manny Rosa restore this statue. Rosa, right, received national press for restoring religious statues while on Saipan during his spare time. This is the last statue prior to being restored (circa 1944).

Do you recognize these two statues? Where are they now? Please help! Eighty years ago, Manny Rosa, a member of the Construction Battalion (Seabees) who were stationed here after the Battle of Saipan, contributed his artistic and carpentry talents to restoring and repairing some of the religious statues here on island. Eighty years later, his grandson Jordan Rosa is making a pilgrimage and wishes to find these two statues his grandfather worked on. Are they in a family collection, buried, in storage somewhere? If you have information on what happened to or the present location, contact the editor@saipantribune.com or walt@discoversaipan.com text (670) 484-2801. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manuel Francis Rosa often called Manny or Pete was the chief petty officer of the 137th Battalion, 595th CBMU (circa 1944).

Chief petty officer Manny Rosa, left, and a helper restoring one of the statues (circa 1944).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Unclaimed remains of Donna Neff at CHC morgue

This is to inform the next of kin, family members, and friends of Donna Neff, who was born on March 1, 1951 and died on Aug. 27, 2024 whose remains are still unclaimed at the Commonwealth Health Center morgue, to please come forward to identify and claim her remains.

As provided in the Commonwealth Register Volume 23, Number 09, Part 6.2 Disposition of Abandoned Remains, the chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will execute her authority to arrange for the interment of the remains after two weeks from the date of this notice.

Please call Sherry Guerrero of General Support Services, at (670) 234-8950 or email sherry.guerrero@chcc.health to claim the remains. ***(PR)***

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we are reminded of the importance
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A thousand days of hell: Ukraine war continues as Trump presidency looms

As the Ukraine war, launched by the imperialist invasion by Russian despot Vladimir Putin, passed its 1,000-day mark this month, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's troops are newly empowered by the Biden administration to use long-range ATACMS missiles to attack targets in Russia, which they did. And Moscow responded by launching its own new mid-range ballistic missile.

Biden is also sending antipersonnel mines to Ukraine, marking a couple significant shifts in strategy in his waning weeks at the helm.

What everyone knows is that this late flurry of aid for Kyiv's defenses may soon change. Donald Trump, with his dangerous America First isolationism, wants out of foreign wars and could leave Ukraine to be mauled and consumed by the Russian bear. He's said that he intends to end the war "in one day," which seems to include the idea of significant and unacceptable concessions to Russia and Putin, a strongman whose style Trump has often seemed to admire.

Of course, this terrible war should not be prolonged. Even Zelenskyy expressed some optimism that Trump might be able to help end the war sooner, to some extent due to his existing credibility in the Kremlin. There's a world here where the clarity of Trump's non-commitment to both Ukraine and the global Western security apparatus and alliances like NATO at least pushes European allies to step up and help broker an end to the conflict that does not constitute a Russian victory.

This, however, is only possible if Russia comes to feel that this victory is not possible, or at least comes at too extravagant a cost. That means that Ukraine needs to continue to have the tools not just to defend itself but to strike back, as it has begun doing with the long-range missiles.

For its part, Russia has suffered estimated military casualties, including killed and wounded, in excess of 700,000, destroyed its military readiness, is in the midst of uncontrolled inflation and seems destined to at best have an incredibly Pyrrhic victory. Now, it will suffer heavier casualties and infrastructural damage on its own soil from Ukraine's latest weapons.

This doesn't mean that Ukraine has the upper hand, per se, but it does mean that this is a grinding stalemate that no one really wants to continue. Russia has been increasingly desperate for an edge, now allowing thousands of North Korean troops to join the fray, committed to saving face to protect the aspirations and public image of its despotic leader. But the tides can turn quickly if Ukraine's means to defend itself begin drying up.

So let the Biden administration shore that up for now, and we hope that Trump's lean towards a Russia-favoring resolution is tempered in the months until he takes office.

History and common sense point to a series of escalating consequences if an aggressive and expansionist Russia is allowed to win this war outright in the ways it had initially set out to do — seizing large swaths of territory and rewiring the social and political fabric of the land. Putin will not be appeased, or satisfied with this meal at Ukraine's expense. He'll always want more, which is why he must be stopped.

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Newsom is too elitist to lead states' fight against Trump

By ERIKA D. SMITH
Bloomberg Opinion

Erika D. Smith is a politics and policy columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. She is a former Los Angeles Times columnist and Sacramento Bee editorial board member.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom knows a political opportunity when he sees one. That's why it should come as no surprise that the ambitious lame-duck leader of the nation's most liberal state has wasted no time picking a fight with President-elect Donald Trump.

Already, Newsom has announced that he's convening a special legislative session to strengthen the state's immigration and abortion rights laws. He also traveled to Washington to lobby the Biden administration to "Trump-proof" federal funding for disasters, climate change, and health care.

"We must assert ourselves," Newsom told supporters of his Campaign for Democracy PAC, explaining over Zoom that the "onus" is on California to act—not only for Californians but all Americans.

If that sounds a bit presumptuous, that's because it is—especially coming from the governor of the state that's home to the Democratic presidential candidate who just lost the election. It's also precisely the sort of rhetoric, coming from exactly the kind of person, that the Democratic Party is shying away from right now.

Newsom is angling to be a leading voice—if not the leading voice—in what Democrats have come to call the "resistance," a loose coalition of politicians, activists, advocacy groups and party officials, all working in various capacities to oppose Trump. It would reprise Newsom's role during the president-elect's first term when California, with its unparalleled population and resources, became a counterweight to MAGA, leading other states in dozens of lawsuits to stymie Trump's agenda.

Politically, this makes sense for Newsom. It would help him to stay relevant when his final term ends in 2026 and could be a steppingstone to launching a widely expected bid for the White House in 2028. But Newsom clearly hasn't given enough thought to whether he's the right messenger for this incredibly fraught moment.

He's not. Consider some of what has been made plain since Election Day.

Trump is on track to become the first Republican presidential candidate to win the popular vote in 20 years. He won every swing state and made gains with almost every demographic—including women and Latino voters and, to a lesser extent, Black, Arab American and younger voters. Americans also shifted to the right on several down-ballot races, handing Republicans control of both the House and Senate.

While there's still a robust debate about why so many voted the way they did, Democrats seem to agree on a couple of points. First, the party has lost its mojo with voters without college degrees, particularly White people and men of all races. Second, the party only seems to do well with college-educated voters, a bloc that some call "elites," and that's not big enough to win elections alone.

Enter Newsom with his slicked-back hair and Hollywood smile. He screams "coastal elite" without saying a word. Unfortunately, when he does say something, he also sounds like a coastal elite, dropping words like "iterative" and "determinative" into casual conversation. Indeed, Newsom is a wonk to his core, even when he's joking with former NFL player Marshawn Lynch on their podcast, "Politickin'."

But what's probably working against Newsom most right now are his progressive politics. On that Zoom call with supporters, he extolled the virtues of pluralism. He promised to defend, not demonize marginalized communities, including undocumented immigrants and transgender Americans, saying that California is coming from "a place of moral authority."

"I believe our values are universal values," Newsom said, "... American values."

If only that were true. Maybe it was eight years ago when Trump was first elected president. But now, as we prepare to inaugurate him a second time after a campaign that trafficked in racism and sexism, there's momentum among Democrats to ditch Newsom's brand of identity politics, believing it cost them the election.

This is one reason Donna Brazile, former chair of the Democratic National Committee and an ally of Vice President Kamala Harris, has been calling for Democrats to engage in "deep introspection" before making any kneejerk decisions about a leader, messaging or strategy.

"With Hillary's defeat, we said, the majority of us voted against that, and we felt like we could resist," she told Politico. This year, "the American people rejected normalcy, decency, morality, and they chose Trump. Let's sit with that."

She's right. But that advice is unlikely to sit well with Democrats who are looking to do something—anything—about Trump. Activists have planned several protests, including a People's March in Washington in January.

Other Democratic politicians have stepped up, too. New York Governor Kathy Hochul warned Trump: "If you try to harm

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EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Truth 72: God don't like ugly and poli-tricking again!

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.

Happy Thanksgiving even though there's nothing to be thankful for from our governor, as the truth of the matter is we are still experiencing the same-o ugly poli-tricking by Ralph again under Arnold's administration, as it has really changed and even worse. First and foremost, respect is a reciprocal phenomenon and Ralph nor Arnold deserve my respect given the ugly subterfuge (schemes) they deployed against me—some trust! But they don't know or forgot, God don't like ugly, and sooner or later I will be vindicated for all the things I tried to do for the people, as my faith is much bigger than a mustard seed. But what's getting me now is Arnold's ugly poli-trick to imply that CEDA is now our economic experts, which most of us with common sense know is a bunch of malarkey and poli-tricking. CEDA hasn't done anything to reform or improve our economy other than normal business loans and taking people's property. It is no secret that I have been placing accountability on the governor to tell us who is our economist and now out of the blue, CEDA with no economist, is to decide on an economic decision to cover for the governor—LOL. I say it's ugly poli-tricking and cover for the governor because it is already known CEDA hasn't done anything in the past and now out of the blue sky is going to arbitrarily decide for the people if MACS is going to get a 25-year tax break without a public hearing—ugly poli-tricking at the highest level of our government by the governor himself! We the people deserve better and should be sick and tired of things being shoved down our throats after the unwanted casino dinner we were served that we didn't like which now seems like food poisoning figuratively and literally. When are the people going to start standing up and speaking out, as Fabian should not be a lone wolf but a member of an entire pack of locals for real progress, as one definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result"—Albert Einstein!

Being an outsider, black and the only real activist for the People, it is a daunting task to rally citizens, especially when it's culturally inappropriate to do what I do, which is calling-out our leaders and holding them accountable in a public forum. But that's the American way of making things happen for the people by holding leaders accountable, which is what locals need to do, as if you want the CNMI to be more like America, then act more like a Chamorro/Carolinian American when it comes to our government by protesting. I have said it before, the CNMI will never change for the better to find some semblance of prosperity until the people get sick and tired and truly want real change! There is a reason why locals leave for the mainland, especially when they see the ugliness in our leader's refusal to even consider new ideas and change, as they don't like Ambrose the messenger yet the Bible and even our youth are taught "it's about the message, not Ambrose"—grow up CNMI leaders, stop the bigotry, your people are suffering!

These Republicans seem to have even brainwashed some Democrats against me and continue to get away with poli-tricks right in front of us like the Cannabis Commission we don't need. But they know the people are not going to complain nor protest, only Ambrose—so sad when it's the people's government, not Ambrose's! Heck, the governor just betrayed all the people for his relative so Joe Palacios can keep his job and no protest—LOL to keep from crying for the people! Republicans have even changed their name just to win from independent-Republicans, to Covenant, back to Republican and now Arnold is supposed to be an independent, which we can all see is a lie. But think voters, only eight years for Democrats while you have elected GOP governors for 38 years of the CNMI's 46 years in existence and we wonder why our government is so corrupt with the last 30 straight years of complete GOP rule! Absolute power, absolutely corrupts, so when is basta enough going to happen! If it looks, talks and acts like a Republican, it's a Republican. The Republican EVS-TAP is starting but I warned no one knows what the Chinese government will do—prayers.

I do want to exclude our new GOP delegate from this, as she deserves respect and a real chance. But this ugly conservative Republican thinking and changing names to win has killed the CNMI just like it's about to do on the mainland with Trumpism. If Democrats here and on the mainland don't get their acts together for real change, the U.S. and CNMI will face the same-o you-know-what and it ain't pretty! I'm sure that many if not the overwhelming majority of locals really want the CNMI to be more like the mainland, not more like some of the tiny islands in the FSM that's it's become chasing gambling—pathetic and the people deserve better! If we don't change to the liberal and progressive leadership of Democrats and learn to grow big, like my MaDear told me, then the big fish Guam is literally going to continue to eat all or most of the fish (tourists) for our region—it's really that simple. Hold on to these facts if you care about the future of the CNMI the next time you vote in 2026!

P.S.
A special shoutout and kudos to our Mayor RB who is doing an awsome job even working to curb crime in his city (island), keep-it-up!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

For more than a decade, I have a lot of memories and clippings of my previous articles via the letters to the editor section that *Saipan Tribune* published without hesitation free of charge.

As I recall before the imposition of federal rules and regulations in CNMI, almost every week, I had an article published by *Saipan Tribune* battling for the grandfathering or improve status of the long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune had a legacy in publishing vital information for the public to know specially foreign nationals and workers in the CNMI.

I am personally saddened to know that *Saipan Tribune* is closing its doors for its publication business. I am greatly honored that *Saipan Tribune* contributed much for us foreign workers during the dark days of our immigration issues back from 2004 up to the present. You covered our first ever "Unity March" and our "Lawsuit against USCIS" opposing the implementation of federal regulations, thank you for that. You covered every Filipino group community activity and I thank you for that.

Thank you, *Saipan Tribune* in behalf of my fellow foreign nationals in the CNMI. God Bless!

Carlito J. Marquez
Via email

NEWSOM

From page 6

New Yorkers or roll back their rights, I will fight you every step of the way." Governors JB Pritzker of Illinois and Jared Polis of Colorado have launched a coalition to bolster state institutions called Governors Safeguarding Democracy.

No matter what, Democrats need messengers who are steadfast in their beliefs but with a measure of humility as they try to explain the need to resist to the majority of Americans who believe Trump is the solution to their problems. (Trump, with his problematic Cabinet appointments, is certainly helping Democrats make that case.) Otherwise, the party risks reinforcing the narrative that it's full of elites who think they know what's better for the masses than the masses do for themselves. That's a recipe sure to lead to more losses at the polls.

To Newsom's credit, he has said that his job "isn't to get up every day and try to put a crowbar in the spokes of the wheel of the Trump administration," but that California "will stand firm." That makes sense. Democrats must prepare for the worst with Trump. Governors, legislatures and attorneys general must shore up their laws to protect residents.

Newsom was right to be in Washington lobbying on behalf of California. Picking fights is only the beginning.

Between the immensities

A Think(s) Giving message for Thanksgiving 2024
(poems and prose from Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, and Russia)

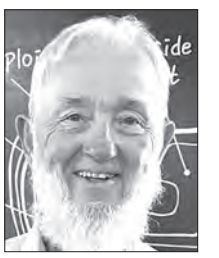
I "think" Giving and sharing some poetry from countries at war will increase the breadth and depth of the "thanks we give" for having such a beautiful and peaceful place to live here in the CNMI. Right now, literally millions of people on both sides of the wars in Gaza/Israel and Ukraine/Russia have no homes to return to, have lost loved ones, and lack food, water, and medicine. All sides suffer in war. There are millions of refugees, children from the warring countries, who fled from the bombings that are now in refugee camps or scattered across the world. Here are some 'thinks' from poets about these countries experiencing the horrors of war, at this time in history, for us to reflect upon this Thanksgiving weekend.

From Gaza: Mosab Abu Toha, born in a refugee camp in Palestine, in 1992.
He is now a teacher and poet at Syracuse University in upstate New York.

"If we stay in our houses they bomb us, If we shelter in a school they bomb us
If we run to a hospital they bomb us, If we move into a tent they bomb us
If we run from an air strike they bomb us, If we do not do any of this they still
bomb us, If we remain standing like a tree or temporarily leave like a leaf in the fall, they bomb us.
But spring will come and they, those who bomb us, will find no bombs among the flowers. We will be on the trees bathing in the sun next to the sparrow's nests, and they, those who bomb us, will have no sun, no place to rest, no legs to run."

From Israel: Martin Buber, German-Jewish Israeli philosopher, born1878, died in Palestine in 1992. He advocated a binational Israeli - Palestine state.

LITERARY NOOK



By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.

"The world is not comprehensible, but it is embraceable: through the embracing of one of its beings." "There are three principles in a man's being and life, the principle of thought, the principle of speech, and the principle of action. The origin of all conflict between me and my fellow-men is that I do not say what I mean and I don't do what I say."

From Ukraine: Iryna Tsybukh, Ukrainian paramedic, forever 24, in her farewell letter to her brother. These were the last three sentences in that letter.

"To have the strength to be a free person, you have to be brave. Only the brave have happiness; it's better to die running than to live rotting. Be worthy of our hero's exploits; don't grieve; be brave!"

From Russia: Anna Akhmatova, born Odesa Ukraine 1889, died in Russia,1966. She is one of the most beloved poets in Russia. Notice she was born in Ukraine, and we know Russia has reclaimed Ukraine. A major theme of her poetry is the impact of political events on individual lives. She avoided many Stalinist purges.

The Last Toast by Anna Akhmatova
'I drink to the ruined house, To the evil of my life
To our shared loneliness And I drink to you –
To the lie of lips that betrayed me
To the deadly coldness of the eyes,
To the fact that the world is cruel and depraved
To the fact that God did not save.'

As we gather around the table
this Thanksgiving, we are reminded
of the many blessings we have.
Your support and trust mean the world
to us. Wishing you a holiday filled
with love, laughter, and gratitude.
Happy
Thanksgiving

From the management and staff of

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This Thanksgiving, let's take time to focus on the abundance around us. Gratitude helps us see the world through a lens of appreciation.

Thanksgiving:

A time to reflect on what truly matters

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
Special to Saipan Tribune

Thanksgiving is more than just a holiday; it's a time to pause and reflect on the things we often take for granted. As we gather with loved ones and share in the warmth of the season, it's a perfect opportunity to express gratitude for both the big and small blessings in our lives.

One of the most significant things to be thankful for is the people who enrich our lives. Family, friends, neighbors, and even kind strangers shape our experiences and remind us that human connection is vital. Whether through laughter, support during tough times, or simple acts of kindness, these relationships are the heart of Thanksgiving.

This sentiment is shared across generations. Jose Roberto, who is in his 50s, feels profoundly grateful for the good health of both himself and his mom. He also appreciates his second family on Saipan, the Millares, and all his good friends who have been there for him in his times of need. Feeling blessed, he recognizes how meaningful it is to have supportive friends who are like family. Similarly, Iver James, a graduating high school senior, is thankful for everything and everyone in his life and feels uplifted by the love and support of his family and friends.

Aldrich Delos Santos is deeply thankful for his family, grateful that they are all together, healthy, and able to share life's moments. He feels blessed to still have his job and is especially excited and grateful for the new baby on the way—a beautiful reminder of hope and new beginnings. Christine Hayag, in her 20s, expresses gratitude for her family and friends who keep her sane. Despite life not being perfect, she is thankful for what she has—a job, food on the table, and the many blessings she receives daily. Edmund Robles is grateful to be alive and well, having recently celebrated his birthday. He is proud to have reached senior age and now enjoys the perks of having his *man'amko* card.

Even the youngest among us feel this sense of gratitude. At Green Meadow School, the third-grade class shared what they are thankful for this year. Liam Buston, 9, is especially grateful for his supportive parents and loving sister. He feels lucky to be surrounded by people who care for him and is also thankful for his teachers, classmates, and friends. Yar'lis Doram, 8, is thankful for her good health and expresses deep gratitude for her mom, dad, entire family, and friends, including her aunts, sister, and cousins. Kira George, 8, feels thankful for both family and friends and celebrates her recent successes in PGFC, Math Court, and soccer. Colin Lilles, 8, is especially thankful for his family, including his mom, dad, and his big brother. He's also grateful for his best friend Nick, and his grandparents and cousins Cancan and CJ.

We can learn a lot from their perspectives. Gratitude for supportive people, health, personal achievements, and life's simple joys reminds us that even everyday moments are worth celebrating.

In addition to relationships, we should also take a moment to appreciate the basics that sustain us—a roof over our heads, food on the table, and the comforts of everyday life. In a world where many go without, these essentials are worth acknowledging.

Good health is another blessing that often goes unnoticed until it's threatened. Whether in perfect health or managing challenges, having the ability to experience life is something to be thankful for.

Let's not forget to be grateful for the lessons life teaches us. Every challenge, failure, and success contribute to our growth. Even in difficult moments, there's strength to be found and lessons to carry forward. Each day offers a fresh start, a chance to strive for better, and the opportunity to create meaningful change in our lives and the lives of others.

Let's remain thankful, even in the face of the challenges we are experiencing on island. Despite the difficulties of a struggling economy, we can recognize that while some businesses may be closing, others are opening, and opportunities for employment remain. Each day is a new day to look forward to. We are fortunate to be part of a tight-knit and resilient community, one that has the strength to adapt and support each other through hard times.

This Thanksgiving, let's take time to focus on the abundance around us. Gratitude helps us see the world through a lens of appreciation. May this season remind us all to cherish the blessings we have and share our gratitude with those around us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Bidens open final White House holiday season with turkey pardons, Christmas tree and 'friendsgiving'

NEW YORK (AP)—President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, on Monday opened their final holiday season at the White House with the annual turkey pardons and Christmas tree arrival before they hosted "friendsgiving" in New York City for U.S. Coast Guard members and their families.

"Simply put, we owe you. We owe your families," Biden said at U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York on Staten Island. "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

The meal was part of the first lady's Joining Forces initiative to support military families. "With all my heart, thank you for your service and your sacrifice," she said before the president spoke.

Both then tied dark aprons with the presidential seal around their dress clothes and joined the chow line, where they served a side dish of roasted Brussels sprouts. Celebrity chef Robert Irvine helped with the menu of turkey, ham, side dishes and desserts.

Earlier at the White House, Biden issued the traditional reprieve to turkeys Peach and Blossom who will bypass the Thanksgiving table to live out their days in southern Minnesota.

He welcomed 2,500 guests to the South Lawn under sunny skies as he joked about the birds' fates and sounded wistful about the approaching end of his half-century in Washington power circles.

"It's been the honor of my life. I'm forever grateful," Biden said of his single term as president. The reins of power will transfer on Jan. 20 to Republican President-elect Donald Trump, the man Biden defeated four years ago and was battling again until he was pressured to bow out of the race amid concerns about his age and viability. Biden is 82.

Biden relished the brief ceremony with the pardoned turkeys named for the official flower of his home state of Delaware.

"The peach pie in my state is one of my favorites," he said during remarks that were occasionally interrupted by Peach gobbling atop a table to Biden's right. "Peach is making a last-minute plea," Biden said at one point.

Biden introduced Peach as a bird who "lives by the motto, 'Keep calm and gobble on.'" Blossom, the president said, has a different motto: "No fowl play. Just Minnesota nice."

AP

President Joe Biden, from second left, and chef Robert Irvine serve food at a Friendsgiving event with service members and their families in the Staten Island borough of New York, Monday, Nov. 25 2024.

Peach and Blossom came from the farm of John Zimmerman, near the southern Minnesota city of Northfield. Zimmerman, who has raised about 4 million turkeys, is president of the National Turkey Federation, which has gifted Thanksgiving turkeys to U.S. presidents since the Truman administration after World War II. President Harry Truman, however, preferred to eat the birds. Official pardon ceremonies did not become an annual White House tradition until the administration of President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

With their presidential reprieve, Peach and Blossom will live out their days at Farmamerica, an agriculture interpretative center near Waseca in southern Minnesota. The center's aim is to promote agriculture and educate future farmers and others about agriculture in America.

The first lady also received the official White House Christmas tree that will be decorated and put on display in the Blue Room. The 18.5 foot (5.64 meter) Fraser fir came from a farm in an area of western North Carolina that recently was devastated by Hurricane Helene.

Cartner's Christmas Tree Farm lost thousands of trees in the storm "but this one remained standing and they named it 'Tremendous' for the extraordinary hope that it represents," Jill Biden said.

Biden began his long goodbye Friday night with a gala in a pavilion erected on the South Lawn for hundreds of friends, supporters, Cabinet secretaries, Democratic donors and long-serving staff members who came to hear from the president and pay tribute, — despite Biden effectively being forced off the Democratic ticket this summer and then watching Vice President Kamala Harris suffer defeat on Nov. 5.

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StayWell Insurance begins CNMI Government Employee Personal Plan open enrollment

StayWell Insurance Saipan would like to announce the annual CNMI Government Employee Personal Plan open enrollment beginning Nov. 26, 2024 through Dec. 27, 2024.

The enrollment period is open to all CNMI government employees who wish to apply. The rates are as follows: Medical only starts at $125.61/bi-weekly for a single, $251.22/bi-weekly for employee +1 dependent and $397.77/bi-weekly for employee +2 or more dependents. Medical and dental rates are at $151.61/bi-weekly for a single, $303.22/bi-weekly for employee + 1 dependent and $454.77/bi-weekly for employee +2 or more dependents.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left back row, Ralph Matulac, billing and rnrollment specialist; and Raul V. Aleligay, UM coordinator. Front row, Nadyne Achas, customer care representative; Bernie Alepuyo, office clerk, Cathy Matsumoto, branch manager; and Tiara Rasa, account service representative.

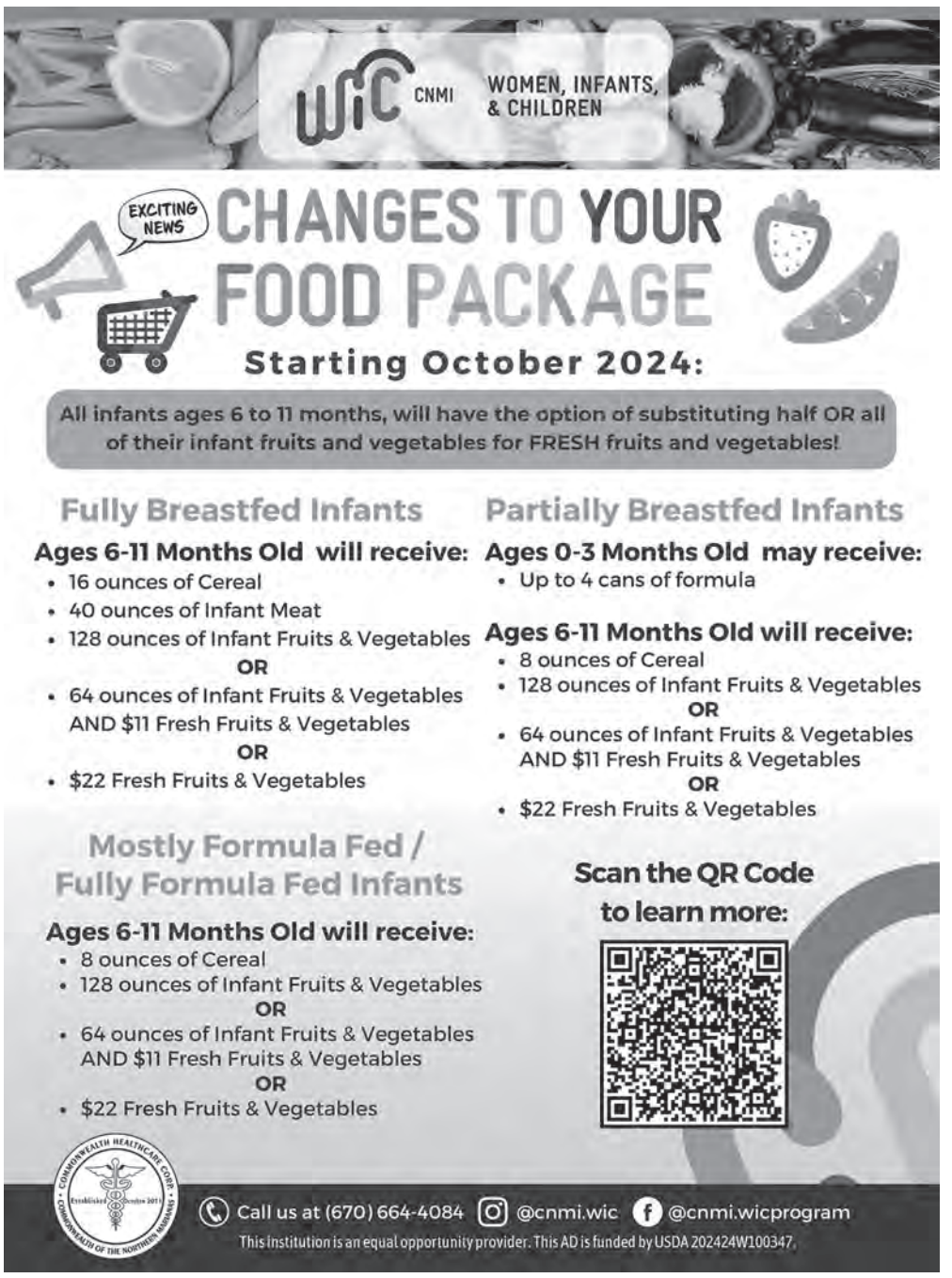
StayWell's CNMI Government Employee Personal Plan benefit highlights include a first dollar plan which means members are not required to pay a deductible. Members have access to a large provider network in CNMI, Guam, Asia, and the U.S. StayWell members may also receive a refund through the prefunded deductible and enjoy exclusive discounts at StayWell's Perks Partners on Saipan and Guam. Furthermore, dental plans are available as options.

To schedule a presentation, you may contact our account service representative, Tiara Rasa at (670) 323-4260 extension 2203 or email her at tnrasa@staywellguam.com.

For more information, call us at (670) 323-4260 or make an appointment to visit our office on the 1st floor of the RJ Commercial Building in Dandan. Applications may be completed and submitted at our office Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

StayWell Insurance is headquartered in Maite, Guam. The insurance company which has branches in Guam, the Philippines, and Saipan has a mission to serve its customers beyond expectation. StayWell health plans are backed by OdysseyRe, a globally diversified underwriter of accident and health reinsurance lines with a global operating network across the Asia-Pacific, Americas and Europe and ratings of A+ on A.M. Best and A+ on S&P Global Ratings. StayWell is fully accredited by AAAHC and adheres to rigorous standards of care and safety. As part of this national network of distinguished third-party administrators and carriers, CNMI government employees can expect quality care and services held to the highest standards in the health insurance industry.

StayWell strives to create value for its customers through its customer service guarantees such as a 99% claims processing accuracy, 98% call-answer ratio and 90% first-contact resolution. StayWell strives to make positive impact in the CNMI by building relationships within the community and providing the best quality health insurance products in the region. ***(PR)***


WIC CNMI
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN
EXCITING NEWS
CHANGES TO YOUR FOOD PACKAGE
Starting October 2024:
All infants ages 6 to 11 months, will have the option of substituting half OR all of their infant fruits and vegetables for FRESH fruits and vegetables!
Fully Breastfed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 16 ounces of Cereal
• 40 ounces of Infant Meat
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Partially Breastfed Infants
Ages 0-3 Months Old may receive:
• Up to 4 cans of formula
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Mostly Formula Fed / Fully Formula Fed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Scan the QR Code to learn more:
Call us at (670) 664-4084 @cnmi.wic @cnmi.wicprogram
This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347.

UOG's 46th Annual Research Conference highlights island resilience

The University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) is proud to announce the 46th Annual Research Conference, scheduled for March 6-7, 2025. This year's theme, "Tapestries of Resilience: Securing Our Island Communities," will explore the innovative and interconnected approaches that island communities use to address pressing challenges, from food security and climate change to cultural preservation and economic inequality.

Scholars, artists, community experts, and students are invited to submit their work for consideration.

Submissions may include:

- Research papers or presentations
- Thematic panels
- Posters and visual presentations
- Creative works such as artwork or performances

Event details

The conference will be held on March 6-7, 2025 on the UOG campus. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori, director of the Pacific Islands Development Program and affiliate faculty at the East-West Center. The conference will open on the evening of March 6 with Hattori's keynote address. A full day of presentations will follow on March 7, culminating in the unveiling of an art exhibit at the Isla Gallery.

Submission information

Abstracts should relate to the conference theme or address other topics of local and regional importance. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 20, 2024. For more information, or to submit a proposal, visit https://url.uog.edu/46th-class-arc or contact arc@triton.uog.edu before the Dec. 20 deadline. Submissions and requests made after the deadline may not be accommodated.

Presentations of all types are limited to:

- 20 minutes for presentation
- 5 minutes for discussion
- An abstract of no more than 150 words
- Real-time presentations only (not pre-recorded)

The UOG CLASS Annual Research Conference fosters innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence within Guam and across the Western Pacific. Please join us as we celebrate the resilience and ingenuity of our island communities. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **March 12, 2021, Soledad Victoria M. Cepeda**, an immediate family member of **Krishna M. Piol**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Krishna M. Piol**, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **December 12, 2024.**

Dated this 21st day of November, 2024.

/S/Jesse S. Palacios
Acting Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on November 15, 2023, **Shirley Ada Cabrera and Allan Aldan Cabrera,** immediate family members of **Roy Aldan Ada, elected official and Congressman of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of individuals who meet the national objective of urgent need and are intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Congressman Roy Aldan Ada,** is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451. mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **December 12, 2024.**

Dated this 21st day of November,2024.

/S/Jesse S. Palacios
Acting Corporate Director

Life & Style

Marilyn Manson drops lawsuit against Evan Rachel Wood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rocker Marilyn Manson has agreed to drop a lawsuit against his former fiancée, "Westworld" actor Evan Rachel Wood, and to pay her attorneys' fees, lawyers for both sides said Tuesday.

The move comes 18 months after a Los Angeles County judge threw out much of the 2022 suit in which Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner, claimed Wood had fabricated public allegations that he sexually and physically abused her during their relationship and encouraged other women to fabricate their own allegations.

"After four years of fighting a battle where he was able to tell the truth, Brian is pleased to dismiss his still-pending claims and appeal in order to close the door on this chapter of his life," Manson attorney Howard King said in a statement.

Manson

Manson had been appealing the judge's decision but his attorneys reached out to Wood's seeking a settlement in the spring. Wood's attorneys said Tuesday that she rejected requests that the terms be kept confidential.

Manson "filed a lawsuit against Ms. Wood as a publicity stunt to try to undermine the credibility of his many accusers and revive his faltering career," Wood's lawyer Michael J. Kump said in a statement. "But his attempt to silence and intimidate Ms. Wood failed."

Manson agreed to pay nearly $327,000 in attorney fees for Wood.

The settlement comes nearly four years into a criminal investigation of the 55-year-old Manson involving multiple women that remains unresolved. Outgoing LA County District Attorney George Gascón said in October that his office's sex crimes division had just discovered new evidence and that a decision on whether to file charges would be made when the picture was more complete.

The women involved in the criminal case have not been identified, but "Game of Thrones" actor Esme Bianco has said she was among them, and criticized the district attorney for taking so long to investigate. Bianco settled her own lawsuit against Manson last year.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly as Wood and Bianco have.

Manson has denied engaging in any non-consensual sexual acts.

In 2017, with the #MeToo movement gaining momentum, Wood said publicly that she had been raped and abused, and gave testimony on the subject to a Congressional committee in 2018, but did not name anyone in either instance.

Then in a 2020 Instagram post, Wood said it was Manson who had "horrifically abused me for years." The two revealed they were a couple in 2007, and were briefly engaged in 2010 before breaking up.

How to watch and stream the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NEW YORK (AP)—The holiday season really kicks off when the massive helium balloons start floating through New York. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade—two years away from its 100th birthday—this year will feature 17 giant character balloons, 22 floats, 15 novelty and heritage inflatables, 11 marching bands, 700 clowns, 10 performance groups and more stars than can fit around a table.

The parade begins on Manhattan's Upper West Side and ends at Macy's Herald Square flagship store on 34th Street, which serves as a stage and backdrop for performances.

Here's key things to know about the parade and how to watch it.

What time does the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade start?

For the second year in a row, Thursday's parade starts at 8:30 a.m., in all time zones.

What channel is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on?

It will be on NBC, available with an antenna or through cable and satellite providers.

What if I want to stream it?

For cord cutters, the parade is being simulcast on Peacock and an encore telecast begins at 2 p.m. EST/PST. A Spanish language simulcast will also be on Telemundo.

What's the weather going to be like?

It may be a wet day—forecasts call for rain with temperatures in the upper-40s with clouds and winds around 10 mph. New York City law prohibits Macy's from flying the full-size balloons if sustained winds exceed 23 mph or wind gusts are over 35 mph.

Who are some of the stars performing?

This year is starrier than ever. Grammy-, Oscar-, Emmy- and Tony-winner Jennifer Hudson will perform, as will global pop icon and Grammy-winner Kylie Minogue and Tony-, Grammy-, and Emmy winner Billy Porter.

Anyone else?

Reality TV's Ariana Madix, Broadway belter Idina Menzel, hip-hop's T-Pain, members of the WNBA champions New York Liberty and country duo Dan + Shay. Other music performers include The War and Treaty, Lea Salonga, Loud Luxury, The Temptations, Chlöe, Jimmy Fallon & The Roots and Coco Jones. It will kick off with "Glow" actor Alison Brie cutting the ribbon.

Who is hosting the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?

For those watching on TV or computers, the trio of hosting stalwarts—Savannah Guthrie, Hoda Kotb and Al Roker from "Today." But this year might be more emotional since it could be Kotb's last—her last official day at "Today" will be Jan. 10.

What are the new balloons?

There will be six new featured character balloons, including Minnie Mouse, "Extraordinary Noorah" with The Elf on the Shelf, Gabby from "Gabby's Dollhouse," Goku from "Dragon Ball," Marshall from "Paw Patrol" and a new "Spider-Man."

What about new floats?

New floats include ones from brands like Disney Cruise Line, Haribo, "Wednesday" from Netflix," Universal Orlando Resorts and "The Grannies Car" from BBC Studios' "Bluey." Nickelodeon and Paramount's "Dora the Explorer" will have both a float and a balloon. One new float will spotlight the Rao's food brand, featuring a knight and a dragon in battle made with actual pasta elements. Another will celebrate The Bronx Zoo's 125th anniversary with representations of a tiger, a giraffe, a zebra and a gorilla.

AP
The Tom Turkey float leads the way down Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Nov. 24, 2022, in New York.

Is your state represented by any of the bands?

The marching bands will hail from Massachusetts, Indiana, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, South Dakota, Georgia, South Carolina, West Virginia and, naturally, New York.

Mixed messages circulate in longtime relationship

DEAR ABBY: My son's father, "Tony," and I dated for two years before our son was born. We split up seven years ago, and it's been on and off most of the time since then. This past year we have been growing closer again, and I asked him what he wants. Tony said he doesn't want a romantic relationship with anyone right now because he is working on his anger issues. He's a former combat Marine, and he's had these issues for years.

I have been honest about wanting a relationship when he is ready, but I'm really confused with the mixed messages he sends me. I asked about setting boundaries we both agree on, but Tony says he doesn't need any and that I should do what I feel is right for me. This leaves me feeling I'd be being used if the situation becomes intimate.

I have drawn the boundary at no sex unless we are in a relationship. Tony treats me like a friend and wants to hug or kiss me at times. I feel that because we don't currently want the same relationship, I should move on. What is your advice?

ON HOLD IN OHIO

DEAR ON HOLD: I am sorry you didn't mention how Tony's anger issues manifest themselves. If they are so severe that he acts out, he does need professional help. You have wisely postponed having (more) sex with him without some kind of commitment, which he's unwilling to make.

From what you have written, your son's father isn't interested in more than a friendly relationship with you so he can have one with his son. While I admire that, I do NOT think you should plan on a future with him, or you could end up waiting forever.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My spouse and I have been happily married for 31 years. However, we have a strained relationship with our daughter "Willa." Although we don't like her pothead/never-held-a-job boyfriend of four years, we've tried to accept him. We even paid for a family vacation and included him.

I'll admit we were hard on Willa growing up, but we always said she could live at home while going to school. She's a hard worker, and we have told her how proud we are of her accomplishments. She's going to school, works two jobs and has never needed anything from us.

We see our daughter only on special occasions. We did family therapy to help our relationship, but she stopped going when the boyfriend came into the picture. My question is: How can I have a good relationship with my daughter?

MISSING IT IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR MISSING IT: You created a daughter who is self-reliant, hardworking and independent, and who likely distanced herself from you because you were so "hard" on her while she was growing up. I don't know whether I should congratulate you or commiserate with you, but as far as having a close relationship with your daughter, that ship may have sailed -- unless you can convince Willa to get back into family therapy with you.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

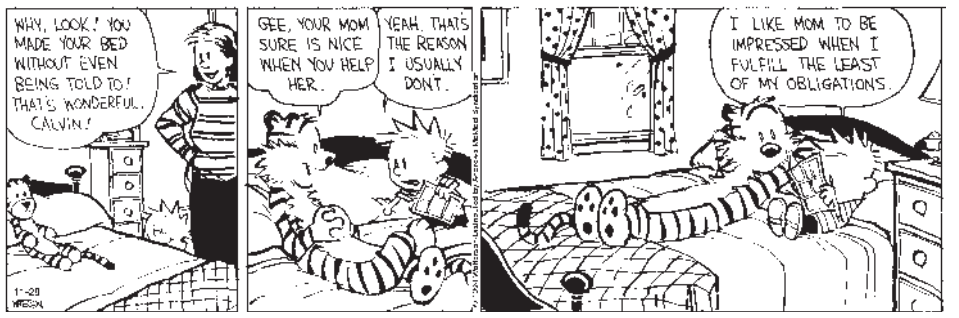
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

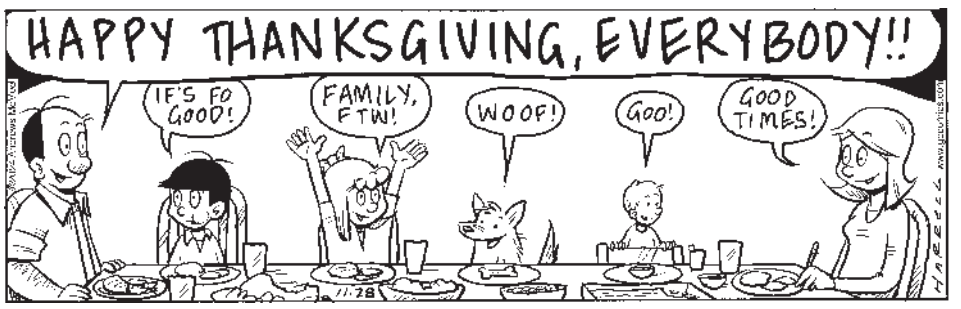

WHY, LOOK! YOU MADE YOUR BED WITHOUT EVEN BEING TOLD TO! THAT'S WONDERFUL, CALVIN!
GEE, YOUR MOM SURE IS NICE WHEN YOU HELP HER.
YEAH. THAT'S THE REASON I USUALLY DON'T.
I LIKE MOM TO BE IMPRESSED WHEN I FULFILL THE LEAST OF MY OBLIGATIONS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

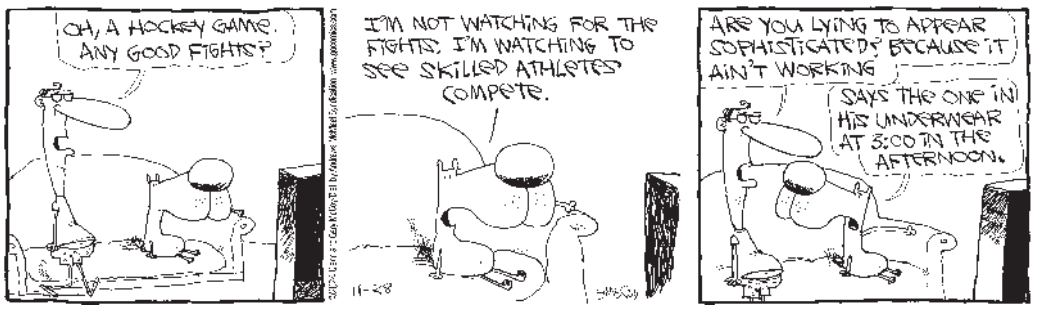
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OH, A HOCKEY GAME. ANY GOOD FIGHTS?
I'M NOT WATCHING FOR THE FIGHTS. I'M WATCHING TO SEE SKILLED ATHLETES COMPETE.
ARE YOU LYING TO APPEAR SOPHISTICATED? BECAUSE IT AIN'T WORKING
SAYS THE ONE IN HIS UNDERWEAR AT 3:00 IN THE AFTERNOON.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cleans floors
5 Categorize
8 Lummoxes
12 "So be it"
13 King, in Cannes
14 Steakhouse order
15 Hindu royal
16 Gerund suffix
17 French cheese
18 Arts companion
20 Bleak
22 Hours spent with relatives
26 Refine metal
29 Garden buzzer
30 Rapper — Kim
31 Like ganders
32 YouTube upload (Abbr.)
33 Sweet beginning?
34 Yucatan "Bravo!"
35 Dispensed candy
36 Stuns, as a perp
37 Say grace at dinner
40 Berry used in smoothies
41 Pirate song chant
45 Sax range
47 Cartoon frame
49 Infamous tsar
50 Yuletide tune
51 Privy
52 Karaoke prop
53 Art class subject
54 Still, in verse
55 "The — of March"

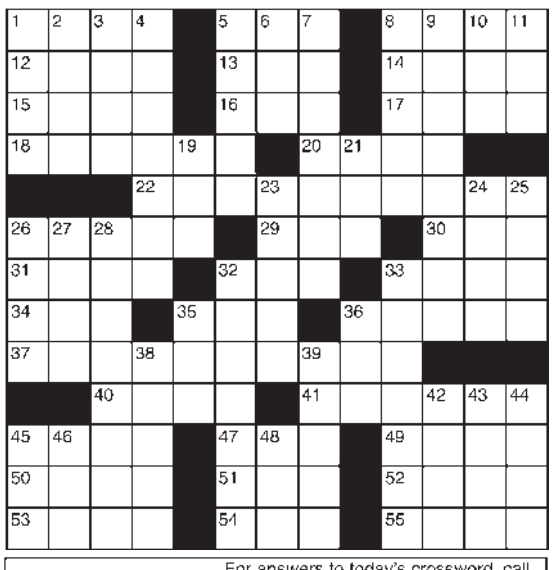
DOWN

1 Artist Chagall
2 Epps of "This Is Us"
3 "The Martian" actor Michael
4 Cold symptom
5 Spectrum creator
6 A billion years
7 Laughed nervously
8 Planet's path
9 Credits for frequent fliers
10 J. Edgar's org.
11 Away from NNW
19 Body art, for short
21 Deli loaf
23 Spanish resort isle
24 Charades player
25 Yale students
26 Urban haze
27 Niger's neighbor
28 Raised
32 Jam ingredient?
33 Raw fish dish
35 Bake sale org.
36 Ring decision
38 Paris school
39 Hose material
42 "Ars Amatoria" poet
43 Cod cousin
44 Snake eyes, in Vegas
45 New England cape
46 Baseball's Gehrig
48 Fair hirer, in ads

Solution time: 22 mins.

		P	S	A			N	A	P			
	T	A	L	L		L	O	F	A	T		
C	A	R	O	L		A	N	O	R	A	K	
B	U	T	T	E	R	C	O	O	K	I	E	S
S	I	Y			G	U	E	S	I		L	E
			B	E	G	S			H	O	L	U
	M	O	L	D	S		E	M	I	R	S	
K	E	P	T				Q	T	I	P		
I	D	E		T	A	U	N	T		D	Y	E
M	I	N	C	E	M	E	A	T	P	I	E	S
	C	I	R	R	U	S		E	L	A	T	E
		T	O	R	S	O		N	O	R	I	
			W	E	E			S	P	Y		

Yesterday's answer 11-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, 40; Jon Stewart, 62; Ed Harris, 74; Paul Shaffer, 75.

Happy Birthday: High energy and emotional situations can clash this year if you don't pace yourself accordingly. Preparation and planning are the keys to getting things done and getting them done your way. Refuse to let anyone bait you into something that can make you look bad or ruin your chance to achieve what's important. Think big, but implement only what your budget and health can handle. Your numbers are 5, 11, 19, 24, 35, 43, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Set high expectations and do whatever it takes to maintain the momentum necessary to reach your target. Opportunity knocks where meetings, travel and learning come into play. Get into the mainstream, network, push forward and promote what you have to offer. Protect your health and your reputation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Control your emotions. Regardless of the situation that crops up, you are best to hang back and observe rather than take a position that can slot you into a group that doesn't represent your values or long-term concerns. You may crave change, but change only what's necessary. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll face temptation and uncertainty. Refrain from overreacting or promising more than you can deliver. Stay calm, watch how others respond and verify facts before you designate your time, skills or cash to someone or something pushing for your support or endorsement. When in doubt, take a pass. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Follow the rule book and avoid discrepancies. Use your imagination coupled with facts to put a spin on what you devise to attract like-minded people. Your courage and strength to uphold your beliefs and to bring about positive change will invite controversy but lead to stability. Partnerships are favored. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Diversity, creativity and trusting your instincts will lead to change. Not everyone will approve of or join your team, but those who do will lift and encourage you to lead the way. Put your energy to good use and make your mission one for all and all for one. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Settle in and refuse to let someone's persistence and manipulative ways dominate your attention and twist your thinking. Stick to what you know, pay attention to detail and do whatever is budget-friendly and encourages personal gain, physical improvement and a positive outcome. Social and romantic events are favored. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You cannot buy love or happiness. Stretch your imagination and intelligence. Explore and express your thoughts and wishes, and use your charm and grace to present what you want using incentives to attract hands-on help. A physical change to how or where you live looks promising. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Deep breaths in and out. Now be realistic, see things as they are and budget accordingly. Take a walk down memory lane and learn from your experiences to safeguard against making a repeat performance. You may want change but, first, you must implement a foolproof plan. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Set boundaries and limits before entering a joint venture. Get expert advice to avoid pitfalls. A domestic change will need more validity and equality. Have an alternative idea to counter any offer that comes your way. Trust your instincts, not what someone leads you to believe. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Revisit what you've done and tweak your work to maximize the outcome. Your proficiency will dictate how others respond and who gives you the go-ahead to do as you please. Network and surround yourself with the right people, and you will have an impact and make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Turn up the volume and drive in high gear. Make a splash and promote what you can do and the changes you want to pursue. Communication will attract the help and response you want and need to get things done. Redefine your space to accommodate your needs. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make sure to fact-check before passing along information or making a move. Keep your money and secrets safe and simplify your life by decluttering and selling off what you no longer need or use. Words matter, and sticking to the truth will keep you out of harm's way. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, well-connected and forceful. You are dedicated and self-sufficient.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3		6		4	8	
	5	8	4	3				
1	4			2		3	5	9
6		9	8		4		3	
7					3			
5	3					8	6	
8				1	5			3
4						7		5
3						9		8

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	8	1	7	2	5	3	6
1	7	3	8	5	6	4	2	9
2	6	5	9	3	4	7	8	1
8	1	4	7	9	3	2	6	5
6	2	9	5	4	8	3	1	7
3	5	7	6	2	1	8	9	4
5	4	6	2	8	9	1	7	3
7	8	1	3	6	5	9	4	2
9	3	2	4	1	7	6	5	8

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/27

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PIE FILLING? Solution: 10 letters

H	O	M	E	M	A	D	E	E	M	I	L	Y	E	K
S	C	H	E	R	R	Y	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I
A	H	I	S	U	M	M	E	R	T	C	C	M	B	T
U	E	Y	R	T	S	A	P	I	L	O	A	U	R	C
Q	F	C	R	U	S	T	U	A	C	J	E	L	A	H
S	S	A	E	T	R	R	S	O	K	V	H	P	B	E
T	T	R	G	A	F	S	A	L	A	W	O	B	U	N
U	E	A	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	K	N	A	H	T
N	X	M	S	C	S	M	A	E	U	B	E	N	R	C
R	T	E	E	L	R	L	A	R	R	S	Y	A	A	O
E	U	L	I	E	M	S	M	R	A	F	Y	N	P	C
T	R	C	T	O	O	A	U	T	U	M	N	A	P	O
T	E	T	N	N	P	S	T	R	E	U	S	E	L	N
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Bucks beat Heat 106-103, stay undefeated in NBA Cup

MIAMI (AP)—Damian Lillard scored 37 points and handed out 12 assists, and the Milwaukee Bucks wasted a 22-point second-half lead before beating the Miami Heat 106-103 in an NBA Cup game on Tuesday night.

Brook Lopez scored 13 points and Bobby Portis had 11 for the Bucks, who have won five in a row and moved back to the .500 mark - 9-9 - for the first time since they were 1-1.

The Bucks (3-0 in Cup play) also moved a half-game ahead of Detroit (2-0) in the East Group B standings.

Jimmy Butler scored 23 points for Miami, which got 18 from Tyler Herro, 17 from Terry Rozier and 16 from Bam Adebayo. The Heat tied the game at 96-96 on a layup by Butler and got within one point on three later occasions, but never led.

The Heat—who were outscored 60-30 from 3-point range—fell to 1-2 in Cup play.

The Bucks played without Giannis Antetokounmpo, a late pregame scratch because of swelling in his left knee.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks guard Damian Lillard (0) shoots over Miami Heat forward Duncan Robinson, left, and forward Jimmy Butler (22) during the first half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, in Miami.

BULLS 127, WIZARDS 108

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nikola Vucevic scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as Chicago eased to a victory over struggling Washington.

Coby White scored 21 points and Zach Lavine had 18 for the Bulls, who pulled into a three-way tie at 2-1 with Boston and Atlanta and a half-game in front of Cleveland in East Group C.

Chicago allowed its second-fewest points and secured its largest margin of victory this season. The Bulls took the lead for good in the second quarter and kept it in double digits throughout the second half.

Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points for Washington, which lost its 12th straight and fell to 0-3 in the group and were eliminated from quarterfinal contention.

Rookie Alex Sarr tied a career high with 20 points and sank four 3-pointers for the Wizards, who sat starting point guard Jordan Poole for a second game with left hip soreness.

ROCKETS 117, TIMBERWOLVES 111, OT

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Alperen Sengun had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists, Fred VanVleet added 27 points and 11 assists, and Houston pulled out an overtime win against Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dillon Brooks added 22 points for Houston, which improved to 3-0 in the competition and clinched West Group A and a spot in the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

Anthony Edwards had 29 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which has lost three in a row. Julius Randle scored 21, while Naz Reid had 19 off the bench.

Rookie Rob Dillingham, the No. 8 pick in the draft out of Kentucky, had his best game of the season, helping to fill the void left by point guard Mike Conley, who missed his third straight game with a left great toe sprain. Dillingham had 12 points and season highs with seven assists and five rebounds.

SPURS 128, JAZZ 115

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Victor Wembanyama scored 34 points, rookie Stephon Castle matched a season high with 23 and San Antonio beat Utah.

The 7-foot-3 Wembanyama made six 3-pointers and shot 13 of 23 from the field. Julian Champagnie scored 15 points and made three 3s in the fourth quarter to help the Spurs pull away.

Utah's Lauri Markkanen had to be helped from the court after banging knees with Wembanyama in the fourth quarter.

Keyonte George led Utah with 26 points and shot 6 of 12 from 3. Collin Sexton and John Collins each scored 20 for the Jazz, who were eliminated from the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

SUNS 127, LAKERS 100

PHOENIX (AP)—Bradley Beal and Kevin Durant each scored 23 points and Phoenix celebrated the healthy return of both players with a win over Los Angeles.

Devin Booker led the way with 26 points and had 10 assists as the Suns snapped a five-game losing streak.

Beal had missed the past five games while Durant had missed seven in a row - both players were sidelined by a strained left calf.

Beal made 10 of 15 shots, including 3 of 6 from 3-point range.

The Lakers were led by Anthony Davis, who scored 25 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. LeBron James added 18 points, eight rebounds and 10 assists. Los Angeles has lost three straight.

The Suns outscored the Lakers 36-18 in the third quarter, turning a tight game into a 98-78 advantage. Booker had 11 points during the run while Jusuf Nurkic had 10.

Analysis: Spurs, Magic fought through adversity. Other teams are searching for answers

Adversity finds every team in the NBA at some point. Somebody is going to get injured or sick, guaranteed. How those stretches are handled can make or break a season.

Orlando and San Antonio are finding a way right now.

New Orleans and Philadelphia are among the teams that aren't.

The Magic have gone 9-1 in their last 10 games, all without an injured Paolo Banchero—the team's best player and an All-Star last season. They are behind only Cleveland and Boston, another pair of teams that haven't let injury issues keep them from sizzling starts, in the Eastern Conference. The Spurs have gone 7-5 since Gregg Popovich had a stroke that left assistant coach Mitch Johnson serving as acting coach.

Those two teams might be the best examples early on of how not to let adversity impede winning.

"Mitch is really smart, great teammate in the coaches room," said Golden State coach Steve Kerr, a close friend of Popovich and someone who spent time with Johnson through USA Basketball in recent summers—including camps in Las Vegas before the 2023 World Cup and this year's Paris Olympics. "He was a big part of all of our conversations pre- and post-practice. He's a really good coach, good guy. I know Pop loves him and feels very strongly what a good coach he is."

It's showing. The last time the Spurs—who have also been without starting forward Jeremy Sochan in recent weeks and played a couple games without star center Victor Wembanyama—had a better record through 17 games was in the 2017-18 season.

Johnson has done an impressive job of holding things together through a tough time.

"You look across the league, there's a lot of injuries and guys out, so it's just something where you're trying to prepare everybody and it's the next man up," Johnson said. "But it's nice to see everybody embrace that, not only for themselves but for their teammates."

The Magic, predictably, went through a struggle phase after Banchero got hurt: They started 0-4 without him, losing those games by an average of 14.3 points. And then Franz Wagner—who should be headed to San Francisco for the All-Star Game—took an enormous leap forward, averaging 27.6 points in his last 11 games.

"I think he's found another level of confidence, and we need it," Magic forward Jonathan Isaac said. "You know, obviously with Paolo going down, he's stepped up and he recognizes what this team needs. We need him to be aggressive and just score the basketball. I think he's just stepped into that role, and he's been dominant, he's been confident, and doing his thing."

The Magic have made playing without a star look easy. It's not. Take the Phoenix Suns—they're 8-1 with Kevin Durant, 1-6 without him. Durant is probable to return Tuesday night from a calf strain when the Suns take on the Los Angeles Lakers.

Memphis is an example of weathering the storm: The Grizzlies went 5-3 in Ja Morant's eight-game absence that ended Monday night.

The Pelicans aren't missing just one big name. They've been decimated by injuries: Dejounte Murray missed his 17th game Monday night with a broken left hand and three other Pelicans—Zion Williamson, CJ McCollum and Herb Jones — have all missed at least 12 games while being hurt. It's why New Orleans is 4-14, one of the worst starts in the league.

"We're going to figure it out, and fight and claw like we normally do," Pelicans forward Trey Murphy said.

The 76ers say they'll do the same, but they've been missing plenty of their best fighters—with Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey, Paul George and Kyle Lowry among those all missing time because of injury.

The result is a 3-13 start, the second-worst record in the NBA. The only silver lining for Philadelphia right now is that it's in the East, where only four teams have winning records right now.

"We're 16 games in. It's a long season," Maxey said. "Either we're going to lay down and let teams come in here and have field days against us, or we're going to go out there and play with some pride and go out there and win some games.

"We get it," he added. "I got hurt. Jo got hurt. Kyle got hurt. P got hurt. Guys are in and out of the lineup. Yes, we understand that. That's not ideal. But all of us can do one thing every single night, 1 through 15, go out there, know the game plan and play extremely hard, every single night."

Such is the adversity part. The Spurs and Magic seem to have figured it out. The Pelicans and 76ers are among those still searching for answers. ***(AP)***

Juan Soto could decide on next team before or during baseball's winter meetings

NEW YORK (AP) — Juan Soto appears on a timetable to decide on where to sign either before or during baseball's winter meetings in Dallas, which run from Dec. 8-12.

Soto met with the New York Yankees, New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers, Boston Red Sox and Toronto Blue Jays, a person familiar with the negotiations said last week, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details were not announced.

Soto's agent, Scott Boras, asked teams to submit initial offers by Thanksgiving, a second person familiar with the talks said, also on condition of anonymity because it was not announced.

Soto is the top player available among this year's free agents. A four-time All-Star, Soto finished third in AL MVP voting after hitting .288 with 41 homers, 109 RBIs and 129 walks. He has a .285 career average with 201 homers, 592 RBIs and 769 walks over seven major league seasons.

Soto turned down a $440 million, 15-year offer from Washington in 2022, prompting the Nationals to trade him to San Diego, which then dealt him to the Yankees last December. Soto then combined with Aaron Judge to lead New York to the World Series, where the Yankees lost to the Dodgers.

In his pitch to teams, Boras highlighted that Soto joined Mickey Mantle as the only players with seven RBIs in a World Series at age 21 or younger when he was with Washington, and at 20 became the youngest player with five postseason homers. Soto's .906 postseason OPS through age 25 topped Mantle (.900) and Derek Jeter (.852).

AP

New York Yankees' Juan Soto reacts after flying out against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the eighth inning in Game 3 of the baseball World Series, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, in New York.

How much money will Soto get?

Soto is likely to seek a record contract, topping Shohei Ohtani's $700 million, 10-year agreement with the Los Angeles Dodgers last December. That might not mean Soto gets more than $700 million, though. Because Ohtani's deal included $680 million in deferred money payable through 2043, it can be valued by different methods.

For instance, Ohtani's contract is valued at $46.1 million per season ($461 million total) under MLB's luxury tax system, which used a 4.43% discount rate. The players' association uses a 5% rate, which puts Ohtani's contract at $43.8 million per year. For MLB's regular payroll calculations, a 10% discount rates values Ohtani's deal at just $28.2 million.

Which means if Soto gets even $462 million without deferred payments, there's an argument that his deal is the most valuable in MLB history.

By average annual value, pitchers Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander are tied for second in baseball history at $43.33 million as part of contracts they signed with the New York Mets, deals that expired at the end of the 2024 season.

In terms of total value, Ohtani surpassed outfielder Mike Trout's $426.5 million, 12-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels through 2030.

MLB's longest contract is outfielder Fernando Tatis Jr.'s 14-year deal with the San Diego Padres through 2034.

How could MLB's luxury tax factor into team's bids on Soto?

The Mets, Yankees, Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies all are likely to enter 2025 having paid luxury tax for three straight years, putting them at the highest rate: a 50% surcharge on payroll between $241 million and $261 million, 62% from $261 million to $281 million, 95% from $281 million to $301 million and 110% for each dollar above $301 million.

Toronto may have dropped below the initial tax threshold this year, pending final figures next month. If the Blue Jays did fall under, their rates next year would reset to 20%, 32%, 62.5% and 80% for the four thresholds.

The winter meetings would be a fitting place for Boras to announce a record deal

If Soto reaches or announces an agreement at the winter meetings in Dallas' Hilton Anatole, it would be a familiar location for a big Boras deal.

Alex Rodriguez's record $252 million, 10-year contract with the Texas Rangers was announced in December 2000 at what then was called the Wyndham Anatole Hotel. A-Rod's deal more than doubled MLB's previous high, a $121 million, eight-year contract between pitcher Mike Hampton and Colorado that was announced just two days earlier.

"In two days, we've doubled a new highest salary," said Sandy Alderson, then an executive vice president in the commissioner's office. "I don't like the exponentiality of that."

Rodriguez was 25 at the time of the agreement with Texas, a free agent before entering his likely prime, like Soto.

Besides Soto, which free agent hitters are available?

Third baseman Alex Bregman, first basemen Pete Alonso and Christian Walker, and outfielders Anthony Santander and Teoscar Hernández are among the significant bats available to pursue and likely would interest some of the teams who fail to sign Soto.

Bregman and Alonso, like Soto, are represented by Boras.

Saquon Barkley is the NFL's version of Shohei Ohtani: Analysis

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Saquon Barkley has become the Shohei Ohtani of the NFL.

There's no better home run hitter playing football right now.

Barkley had touchdown runs of 72 and 70 yards for the Philadelphia Eagles in a 37-20 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday night. He now has five runs of 50-plus yards this season and is on pace to break Eric Dickerson's single-season record of 2,105 yards set in 1984.

Barkley's historic performance against the Rams—his 255 yards set a team record—captivated a national audience and turned him into a fan favorite for the AP NFL MVP award.

He's not the betting favorite, however.

Josh Allen has the best odds at plus-150, according to Bet MGM Sportsbook. Two-time MVP Lamar Jackson is next at plus-250 followed by Barkley at plus-400.

Running backs have won the award 18 times, including three-time winner Jim Brown, who was the AP's first NFL MVP in 1957. Quarterbacks have dominated the award, winning it 45 times. Only three players who weren't QBs or RBs have been MVP.

It takes a special season for a non-QB to win it mainly because the offense goes through the signal caller.

Quarterbacks handle the ball every offensive snap, run the show and get the credit when things go well and the blame when it doesn't.

Adrian Peterson was the most recent non-QB to win it when he ran for 2,097 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Minnesota Vikings in 2012.

Playing for a winning team matters, too.

Nine of the past 11 winners played for a No. 1 seed with the other two winners on a No. 2 seed. The Vikings earned the sixth seed when Pederson was MVP.

Barkley is a major reason why the Eagles (9-2) are leading the NFC East and only trail Detroit (10-1) by one game for the top spot in the conference.

Does he have a realistic chance to win the MVP award?

Kicker Mark Moseley was the MVP in the strike-shortened 1982 season when he made 20 of 21 field goals and 16 of 19 extra points in nine games for Washington.

If voters once selected a kicker, everyone has a chance, especially a game-changer such as Barkley.

Defensive tackle Alan Page was the MVP in 1971 and linebacker Lawrence Taylor won it in 1986.

Running back Christian McCaffrey finished third in voting last year and wide receiver Justin Jefferson placed fifth in 2022.

The Offensive Player of the Year award and Defensive Player of the Year award recognize the best all-around players on both sides of the ball, allowing voters to recognize non-QBs if they choose.

Wide receivers and running backs have won the AP OPOY award seven times over the past 11 seasons. McCaffrey was the 2023 winner.

The AP's new voting format introduced in 2022 also gives non-QBs a better opportunity to get MVP recognition.

Voter submit their top five picks for each award, with a weighted point system. Previously, voters made one choice for each award.

A nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league vote for MVP and seven other awards. The awards are based on regular-season performance.

Clinching scenarios

The Chiefs (10-1) and Bills (9-2) already are in position to lock up postseason berths right after Thanksgiving. Kansas City clinches a playoff berth with a win over Las Vegas on Black Friday and a loss by Miami on Thursday night, or a win plus a loss by Denver on Monday night.

Buffalo can wrap up a fifth straight AFC East title with a victory over San Francisco on Sunday and a loss by the Dolphins.

Status quo in Dallas?

It's not a given that the Dallas Cowboys will be looking for a new head coach after this season.

Owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday on local radio that Mike McCarthy could end up getting a contract extension.

"I don't think that's crazy at all. This is a Super Bowl-winning coach. Mike McCarthy has been there and done that. He has great ideas. We got a lot of football left," Jones said.

McCarthy led the Cowboys (4-7) to three straight 12-win seasons, but they went 1-3 in the playoffs and haven't reached the NFC championship game since winning the Super Bowl 29 years ago.

Injuries have contributed to the team's struggles this season, but Dallas was just 3-5 before Dak Prescott was lost for the rest of the season.

The Cowboys upset Washington last week and their next four games are against teams that currently have losing records. If they somehow end up 9-8 or even 8-9, Jones could make a case for keeping McCarthy.

Win Pacific hoops league individual awardees announced

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The MVPs and awardees of the Win Pacific Corp. Invitational Basketball League 2024 were feted at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Jun Estolas, captain of the masters division and semi open division championship teams, was crowned the MVP for the masters division. He scored a game-high 34 points in the masters finals, while he shot a three in the semi open finals right after.

The champion of the masters division was 670 Gravity, while the runner-up was HBR. Third place was El-Champions and fourth went to One n Win.

The Mythical Five awards were also given. In the masters divisions, the Best Guard awards went to Estolas and Leo Tapay; the Best Forward awardees were Albert Agustin and Brandon Talania; the Best Center was Jerome Directo; and the season MVP was Talania.

Estolas, who played in both the masters and semi open division said that his MVP award was unexpected. He said, "I have a history of knee injuries and at the same time, I'm also old. My opponents are all fast, tall, and young… but I'm very happy that I was recognized by the committee as the best guard for both divisions and masters division MVP."

In the semi open division, the MVP was sharp shooter Sean Licayan who downed six 3-pointers and one field goal for a total of 20 points.

The champions of the semi open division were SMJ Corp., while the runner-up was Alsa Baso. Third place went to Team Alliana's, and fourth place was Swisha's.

The Mythical Five awards for the semi open division were as follows: the Best Guard award went to Estolas once again, and Steve King; the Best Forward awards went to Jude Tengco and Jepoy Tabora; the Best Center was Emman Bondad; and the season MVP was Steve King.

The Best Coach in both divisions was Erwin Lumanlan, who coached 670 Gravity and SMJ Corp. to their titles.

The Sportsmanship Award went to Tsingtao JTM in the masters division, while Umi Shooters won the award in the semi open division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The masters/semi open division Mythical 5 and MVP awardees pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Win Pacific Corp. Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

BJKC

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Nhi Huynh.

Then in the rubber doubles, Lee and Heras gave the CNMI the win with a 6-4, 7-5 (7-2) victory over Huynh and Hanh Hong Ngo.

The win was significant for debuting CNMI considering that Vietnam has a population of over 100 million compared to the former's just over 43,000.

CNMI team captain Lydia Tan gave kudos to Lee and Heras for sticking to it in the highly competitive doubles match that went to a tiebreaker.

"Both girls played great! We had two match points but failed to finish it. It went to tiebreak. Great play at the net from Carol and Isabel during the tiebreak and Carol served for the match point. She aced the match point," she said.

Lee, for her part, said it was a challenge going up against players from Vietnam,

"The Vietnam team was a tough opponent to play but we expected the high intensity and level and we gave our best so I am proud of our work ethic today. Weather is dry heat so definitely need to hydrate a lot. Courts are fast and balls skits sometimes so need to adjust with the timing."

Earlier, Heras said it was an honor representing the CNMI in the 2024 Billie Jean King Cup.

"I'm always excited and honored to represent the Northern Mariana Islands. As this is our first year competing, we are unranked, but I have high faith in our team to do well. We all have experience playing college tennis which has instilled great values of teamwork, effort, and hard work. We hope to make the Marianas proud!"

Aside from Lee and Heras also suiting up for Team NMI are collegiate netters Asia Rauleroson and Hye Jin Eliott.

The CNMI is in Pool A together with Vietnam, Macau, and Brunei.

BASA

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13-10 game.

Homies tacked on more insurance runs in the fifth off Ian Norita and To Norita's solo shot, plus a three-run jack by Boss Camacho for an 18-run advantage. Goodbyes were then said to Wazzup as they could only score four more runs in their last at-bat for an 18-16 final.

Homies only had one loss the whole season and boasted a 14-1 record.

No. 2 seed Just4Fun banished the Blue Jays, 26-15.

It was a slugfest for Just4Fun as they took fun to the next level. They scored in every inning throughout the game and it was a home run derby of sorts from the amount of home runs hit.

Eleven moon shots were hit off the bats of Just4Fun including one grand slam from P.J. Masaharu, three three-run homers, with the rest being solo shots. Meanwhile, the Blue Jays tried for a comeback in the last inning to no avail as Just4Fun already solidified their lead by the second inning.

Just4Fun and Brotherhad had the next best records of 13-2 each.

No. 3 seed Brotherhood then teamed up against No. 6 Parre' Pack, 25-9.

This was another slugfest that featured multiple home runs as well. Brotherhood dominated the diamond from the get-go and had a solid 13-4 lead at the end of the second inning.

They went on to score eight more in the third, five in the fourth, and three in the fifth. Meanwhile, Parre' Pack struggled at the plate and only conjured up six more runs for a 25-9 final.

And No. 5 seed The Kliq ousted Team Yayaya, 22-6.

Majority of The Kliq's runs came in the last two innings of the game as they were neck-and-neck with Yayaya in the first three innings, 8-6. But, The Kliq broke through in the fourth after they scored five, and wrapped it up with nine in the last inning. Yayaya went scoreless in the last inning and were eliminated.

The Kliq and Yayaya were tied at with a record of 11-4.

The semis and championship series are set for this Sunday starting at 9am.

LEIGH GASES

Wettz pitcher Amalina Evangelista curls up to throw to first base during one of their games in the NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

WETTZ

From page 20

and when the dust settled, Wettz was up, 9-4.

The Lady Blue Jays could only come up with two at the bottom of the fifth for a 6-9 game, and they were running out of room to retake the lead. Wettz's offense didn't look back as they tacked on eight runs in the last inning highlighted by an inside-the-park homer by Aguon.

The Lady Blue Jays, with the last at-bat, scored just four straight runs before being retired by Wettz ace Amalina Evangelista.

In other results that day, Man Amigas bombarded 670 Babes, 18-7, and Batties crushed Dirty Diamonds, 19-8.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	3	.833	–
New York	10	7	.588	4½
Brooklyn	8	10	.444	7
Toronto	4	14	.222	11
Philadelphia	3	13	.188	11

Southeast Division

Orlando	12	7	.632	–
Miami	7	8	.467	3
Atlanta	7	11	.389	4½
Charlotte	6	11	.353	5
Washington	2	14	.125	8½

Central Division

Cleveland	17	1	.944	–
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	8
Indiana	8	10	.444	9
Chicago	8	11	.421	9½
Detroit	8	11	.421	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	13	6	.684	–
Memphis	11	7	.611	1½
Dallas	10	8	.556	2½
San Antonio	10	8	.556	2½
New Orleans	4	14	.222	8½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	13	4	.765	–
Denver	9	7	.563	3½
Minnesota	8	9	.471	5
Portland	7	11	.389	6½
Utah	4	13	.235	9

Pacific Division

Golden State	12	5	.706	–
Phoenix	10	7	.588	2
L.A. Lakers	10	7	.588	2
L.A. Clippers	11	8	.579	2
Sacramento	8	10	.444	4½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bucks beat Heat 106-103, stay undefeated in NBA Cup

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CNMI withstands Vietnam in BJKC debut

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, CNMI netters Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, Hye Jin Eliott, and Asia Rauleroson pose before their opening match in the 2024 Billie Jean King Cup's Asia/Oceania III competition last Tuesday at the Bahrain Tennis Club in Manama, Bahrain.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The CNMI won its debut in the 2024 Billie Jean King Cup after beating Vietnam, 2-1, last Tuesday in Pool A of Asia/Oceania III at the Bahrain Tennis Club in Manama, Bahrain.

CNMI No. 2 Isabel Heras lost a hard-fought match against Vietnam's Thi Mai Linh Ngunen, 4-6, 5-7, in the first game, but CNMI No. 1 Carol Lee equalized the tie with a masterful 6-0, 6-1 victory over Vietnam's Sophia Tran Ngoc

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI 2024 Billie Jean King Cup team, from left, Hye Jin Eliott, Isabel Heras, Asia Rauleroson, Carol Lee, and team captain Lydia Tan.

Top 4 set for BASA semis

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Top 4 teams are now set for the semis of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League after their playoffs last Monday at the Dandan Softball Field.

The teams are Homies, Just4Fun, Brotherhood, and The Kliq.

LEIGH GASES

The Kliq's Bear Alvarez swings at a pitch during one of their game in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field.

The No. 1 team Homies held on to win against Wazzup, in a close 18-16 game.

Both teams were tied at two apiece at the end of the second inning, while the third inning became a free for all. Wazzup scored seven runs wrapped up by a grand slam off the bat of Nate Sablan to lead, 9-2.

But Homies weren't going down without a fight. They bombarded Wazzup's pitcher with back-to-back hits plus a three-run homer by To Norita, and an additional grand slam by Heath Camacho to overtake Wazzup, 10-9.

The Homies went on to round the bases three more times in the fourth, while Wazzup could only score one in the fifth to make it a

See BASA on Page 19

Wettz rally past Lady Blue Jays, 17-10

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Wettz rallied past the Lady Blue Jays, 17-10, in the NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

The skies above Susupe were a threatening gray with a peak of sunlight through some clouds, but the on-then-off-and-on again drizzle didn't dampen the slugger's spirits as they took on the diamond.

The Lady Blue Jays had a 4-2 lead at the end of the second inning from runs scored by Herminia Agulto, Kiana Camacho, Luisa Cabrera, and Sonia Isaac, but Wettz rained on their parade later in the game.

The humidity was as thick as the tension on the field as the game progressed and as both teams tried to gain and keep the upper hand.

LEIGH GASES

Wettz's Malia Pangelinan trots to home plate and scores a run during one of their games in the NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

Lady Blue Jays pitcher Sonia Isaac did a good job keeping Wettz at bay and left them scoreless in the fourth and fifth inning. But Wettz was beginning to warm up.

The sixth inning was when things started to unravel for the Lady Blue Jays, and was when things picked up for Wettz. Ashley Aguon started things off with an in-field hit, followed by a walk by C.J. Lizama. Another walk to Vicky Ann Pangelinan and Marg Aguon, and all would eventually score. Eva Lizama then hit a single, followed by another by lead-off batter Maria Igitol,

See WETTZ on Page 19